complete and commercial production will start from April, 2004. Shell's Hazira LNG terminal may also be completed by the end of 2004. Government are also pursuing import of natural gas through transnational pipelines from Bangladesh, Myanmar and Iran.

(c) The supply to ceramic and fire brick industrial belt of Saurashtra-Surendranagar-Than-Wankaner Dhuva and Morki would depend on additional availability of natural gas within the region.

(d)The gas allocation and supply in Maharashtra & Gujarat as on 31.10.2003 is as under:

State	Allocation	Supply
Maharashtra	16.6	9.3
Gujarat	24.5	13.78

Excess production of Kerosene

†2261.SHRILAJPATRAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the production of kerosene oil in the country has been more than the requirements during the recent years;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that permission for the import of kerosene oil in the public sector has been granted by Goverment recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRAMAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Against the domestic production of 10.2 MMT of kerosene, 10.4 MMT of kerosene was consumed during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The public sector oil marketing companies have been allowed to import kerosene since a long time.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi